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BRIGHT METEOR OBSERVED IN DAYLIGHT.

The following is extracted from a letter lately received from Mr. C. F. MERRILL, agent of the S. P. Co. at Colma :

* * * "Some little time ago duty compelled me to remain on watch all night at this station. About 6:13 A. M. on September 14, while sitting at the window of the waiting-room, which faces directly south, my attention was attracted by a loud sputtering noise (the waiting-room door being open.) Looking into the sky, I saw a body passing through the air in a southwesterly direction, inclining downward. It was not round, but in the shape of a banana, turning end on end. It also appeared to be a mass of red-hot composition, from which I could clearly see particles flying. It must have been very large, as I could distinctly see its shape and outline as it turned in the air. It was broad daylight at the time.

"What was it?"

ASTRONOMY AND NUMISMATICS.

Dr. A. VERCOUTRE, in *L'Astronomie* for September, 1890, points out how astronomical knowledge may be of service to numismatical science. It is known that on many antique medals, and notably on the coins of the Roman Republic, stars and members of the solar system figure sometimes as symbols and sometimes as heraldic allusions to the magistrate by whom the coin was struck. Thus, on a coin struck by L. LUCRETIVS TRIO, 74 B. C. the seven stars in *Ursa Major* are shown, and this constellation, being named SEPTEM TRIONES, was evidently used as a phonetic allusion to the surname (TRIO) of the magistrate. Again, on a coin struck in B. C. 43, Dr. VERCOUTRE noticed five stars, one of which was much larger than the others. He therefore concluded that the constellation represented on the coin was *Taurus*, as this was the only group of five stars known to the ancients, in which one was more brilliant than the others. On this account he was able to attribute the coin to P. CLODIUS TURRINUS, who apparently used the constellation *Taurus* or *Taurinus* as a phonetic signification of his surname. A coin struck by MANIUS AQUILLUS, B. C. 94, has figured upon it the first four stars in the constellation *Aquila*.—From *Nature*, October 2, 1890.